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Docket No. 00-188-123

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Customer Number: 20277
Hiroataka ITO, et al. : Confirmation Number: 6650
Serial No.: 09/998,693 : Group Art Unit: 2661
Filed: December 03, 2001 : Examiner: not yet assigned
For: MULTI-INITIATOR CONTROL UNIT AND METHOD

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Technology Center 2600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop IDS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

Each non-English language reference was first cited in a corresponding foreign application search report or office action and its relevance discussed therein. A copy of the

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foreign search report or office action, together with an English language version thereof, is attached for the Examiner's information.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION						
(PTO-1449)						
ATTY. DOCKET NO. 60188-123				SERIAL NO. 09/998,693		
APPLICANT Hirofuka ITO, et al.						
FILING DATE December 03, 2001				GROUP 2661		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Document Number Number-Kind Code ₂ (<i>if known</i>)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
		US 6,457,079 B1	09/24/2002	Hanaoka et al.		
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Foreign Patent Document Country Codes -Number & Kind Codes (<i>if known</i>)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Figures Appear	Translation
						Yes No
		JP 2000-250846 A	09/14/2000	MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD	JAPAN (w/English Abstract & Partial English Translation)	
		JP 2000-253024 A	09/14/2000	KOBE STEEL LTD & SEIKO EPSON CORP	JAPAN (w/English Abstract)	
OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)						
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.				
EXAMINER			DATE CONSIDERED			

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1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.